

GETTING STARTED

Your first priority should be to perform a water audit of your building, including the grounds. Water audits vary from business to business and can range from simple to extensive. For information on performing a water audit for your business or institution, visit the TWDB Web site:

www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/conservation/Municipal/ici.asp

Information is also available on these Web sites:
Alliance for Water Efficiency
www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/Water_Audit_Process_Introduction.aspx

American Water Works Association
www.awwa.org/Resources/WaterLossControl.cfm?ItemNumber=48055

WATER SAVER CHECKLIST

Choose water-efficient appliances to help reduce water use. Other suggestions on where water can be conserved are listed below.

Maintenance

- Sweep instead of using a hose
- Use a high-pressure nozzle when a hose is necessary
- Clean windows only when needed

Building Operations

- Check for and repair leaks
- Meter all major uses separately
- Read water meters regularly to track potential leaks
- Shut off water to unused areas
- Keep employees informed
- Use automatic shut-off valves for equipment that is not in operation
- Examine ways to modify processes
- Install self-closing, air-cooled water fountains
- Use gray water for irrigating landscape

Food Service

- Provide water only on request
- Thaw food in refrigerator or microwave
- Scrape dishes instead of rinsing
- Install high-pressure, low-volume spray washers
- Replace worn washers
- Wash full loads only
- Reuse final rinse water for prewash or garbage disposal
- Install dishwashers with automatic shut-off valves
- Use air-cooled or flake ice machines
- Don't use running water to melt ice

Laundries

- Wash full loads only
- Recycle final rinse water for pre-wash
- Install sub-meters to track potential leaks
- Recover steam condensate and/or vented flash steam

Process Use

- Eliminate once-through cooling
- Meter water use
- Recycle and reuse water
- Install automatic shut-off valves
- Use air-cooled systems
- Alter process filtering to maximize product recovery
- Separate water process streams

Restrooms

- Check for and repair leaks
- Remind users to conserve
- Retrofit older fixtures
- Install low-flow showerheads and faucets
- Install metered or sensor faucets
- Install high-efficiency toilets and waterless urinals
- Consider foam flush or waterless toilets

Vehicle Washing

- Wash vehicles only when needed
- Adjust solenoids, valves, nozzles, and equipment to minimize water use
- Use high-pressure washes
- Inspect and replace worn jets and parts
- Install water recycling equipment
- Consider waterless washing techniques

Cooling and Heating

- Meter and record water use
- Check for and repair leaks

Cooling Systems and Towers

- Install a recirculating system
- Reuse blowdown for irrigation
- Reuse treated water for makeup water
- Use air cooling where possible
- Consider evaporative cooling
- Consider hybrid cooling towers
- Consider side-stream filtration or pulse power treatment

Boilers and Heaters

- Check and replace steam traps regularly
- Reuse condensate and blowdown

Pools and Spas

- Check for and repair leaks
- Cover pools when not in use
- Lower the temperature when not in use
- Keep filters clean to reduce backwash
- Adjust pool levels to minimize splash out
- Consider alternative water treatments

X-ray Processing/Labs

- Equip x-ray processors with shut-off valves
- Reduce the flow rate to the processors to a rate of 2 gallons per minute or less
- Eliminate continuous water streams for aspiration of liquids or other purposes
- Eliminate single-pass cooling of instrument analyzers
- Use sterilizers that re-circulate cooling water
- Install silver recovery systems
- Install flow restrictors on water-ring vacuum pumps or replace with oil-ring pumps

Landscape

- Check for and repair irrigation system leaks
- Use drought-tolerant native plants and turf
- Adjust sprinklers to irrigate landscape only
- Water deeply but infrequently
- Water during early morning or evening hours
- Install timers and moisture sensors
- Use drip irrigation
- Use fertilizer sparingly
- Install shut-off nozzles on hoses

